

SPECIAL CABLES.

FROM THE HERALD'S LONDON CORRESPONDENTS.

FIGHTING IN FRENCH GUIANA.

AN ENCOUNTER WITH BANDITS.

THE ROBBERS' VILLAGE DESTROYED.

LOSSES OF THE FRENCH.

LONDON, May 27.

A severe conflict between a company of French marines and a desperate community of bandits has taken place on the frontier of French Guiana, South America, with the result that the French lost their leader and five men, while the village of the bandits was utterly destroyed, and 60 of their number were slain.

The robbers had seized a French officer and were keeping him in captivity. This became known to the French authorities, and Captain Lurier was despatched with a company of marines to demand the prisoner's release.

Before opening hostilities Captain Lurier advanced with a flag of truce, and entered into a parley with the robber chief. He demanded the surrender of the prisoner, whereupon the bandit, disregarding the flag of truce, shot Captain Lurier dead.

The rest of the bandits, who were a numerous company, at once opened fire upon the French, and the marines then entered into a desperate conflict with them.

For two hours the fighting raged, and although the bandits fought courageously, the superior firing of the French inflicted great loss upon them, and eventually the remnant of the robbers fled, leaving 60 of their number dead and their village at the mercy of the marines, who burnt every dwelling in it to the ground.

In addition to the loss of Captain Lurier and five marines, 20 of the French company were wounded.

THE ARMENIAN ATROCITIES.

SERMON BY DR. PARKER.

HE ADVOCATES WAR WITH TURKEY.

LONDON, May 27.

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UMRA KHAN.

UPBRAIDED BY THE AMER.

LONDON, May 27.

Umra Khan, the author of the recent trouble in Chitral, who fled to Afghanistan when his power was broken by the recent British expeditionary force, has been upbraided by the Amer. of Afghanistan for his conduct towards the British. He is, however, promised to grant hospitality to the fugitive.

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LARGE MINISTERIAL MAJORITY EXPECTED.

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The Parliamentary elections in Italy are passing off quietly. Signor Crispi, the Premier, has been elected as one of the representatives for Rome in the Chamber of Deputies. It is expected that the elections will result in a large majority for the Government.

The anticipation that the Ministry of Signor Crispi will gain a large majority is receiving abundant fulfilment as the elections proceed. Signor Crispi's supporters have already secured 300 seats.

The Italian Chamber of Deputies consists of 508 members, and the Government has secured 300 seats, which is already a majority. The Chamber of Deputies is elected by conditional universal suffrage, the electors being the male population over 21 years of age.

The election of Signor Crispi is a great triumph for the Government, and it is expected that the Ministry will be able to carry out its policy with ease.

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VICTORIA.

(BY TELEGRAPH.) (FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

THE RAILWAY EARNINGS.

MELBOURNE, Monday.

The railway earnings for the week ended the 25th instant were £25,158, as compared with £24,404 for the corresponding week of last year. The aggregate earnings for the first 10 weeks of the season were £245,000, and the corresponding period of the last financial year was £245,000.

WAR OF RAILWAY TARIFFS.

MELBOURNE, Monday.

The circular published to-day, indicating the determined action to be made by the New South Wales Railway Department to obtain as much of the Riverina trade as possible, has not caused the Victorian Commissioners any uneasiness. They state that they anticipated some such action, and they have been fully alive to the necessity of conserving Victorian interests.

They are quite prepared to meet the New South Wales Commissioners on their own ground, and, indeed, have already taken steps to retain the trade which they consider Victorian, by its geographical position, is naturally entitled. They do not wish to disclose their hand in the matter, but are confident that when the wool season is over it will be found that just as much trade as formerly has been secured to Victoria.

THE PACIFIC CABLE.

MELBOURNE, Monday.

The replies received by the Premier to the circular addressed to the Governments of Australia, inviting joint action in pushing forward the Pacific cable project, are most satisfactory. The reply received from the Government of New South Wales is particularly encouraging. The reply received from the Government of Victoria is also most satisfactory.

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For two hours the fighting raged, and although the bandits fought courageously, the superior firing of the French inflicted great loss upon them, and eventually the remnant of the robbers fled, leaving 60 of their number dead and their village at the mercy of the marines, who burnt every dwelling in it to the ground.

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SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

(BY TELEGRAPH.) (FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

ANNUAL CHIESS CONTEST.

ADELAIDE, Monday.

The second annual chess match between city and country players took place in the city to-day. There were 60 players, which marks the Australian record. The match was played on a large scale, and the players were of high calibre.

The country men were 21 games out of 60, and the city men were 39 games out of 60. The match was a very close one, and the city men were victorious.

WAR OF RAILWAY TARIFFS.

ADELAIDE, Monday.

To-day was observed as a general holiday in celebration of Queen's Birthday. Outdoor events attracted great crowds. The A.R.C. Birthday meeting on the old course, and the football match on the Adelaide Oval were the most popular events.

The R.M.S. Oruba, from London, arrived at 8 o'clock to-night. The mail for the other colonies were forwarded by the express.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

PERTH, Monday.

Mr. F. W. Martin, engineer for existing lines, who was at one time a member of the New Zealand Public Works Department, died yesterday morning at his residence in Perth.

George Robertson was arrested at Albany on a provincial warrant by Detective Constable on board the mail steamer Victoria on Saturday morning. He was charged with the theft of a watch and a ring.

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WESTERN AUSTRALIAN GOLD-FIELDS.

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COUNTRY NEWS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

A POST-OFFICE ON FIRE.

WALGETT, Monday.

The post-office and premises at Walgett had a narrow escape from being consumed by fire about 8 o'clock to-night. The roof of the building was observed to be smoking. Plenty of assistance was at hand. The fire was quickly extinguished.

The fire was caused by a lamp which had been left burning. The fire was quickly extinguished.

THE BUAH DUTIES.

ULMARIA, Monday.

A meeting of farmers was held at Ulmaria on Saturday. It was well attended. The meeting was held in the evening.

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INFLUX OF HINDOOS.

LISMORE, Monday.

Last week a Hindoo arrived by steamer. They were brought by the contractor from India. It is estimated that there are now upwards of 200 of these people in this district. They are living as a separate community, and disputes have arisen between them and the local people.

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